

Nice Chairman's Report for 2014 AGM

I was going to start as a keen gardener by saying we have done a lot of spade work and soon we will be ready to plant and see things growing! But and it is a big but we as directors and a large number of NICE members have put a lot of time and energy into developing a track record and saying we have delivered proposal x and are working in partnership with all the other agencies and the blunt truth is that amount of time and effort is not producing the results we expected.

Everywhere else in Scotland and elsewhere in Highland a Community Enterprise body with over 1000 members would be regarded as a great starting point. Normally the statutory bodies would work with the charity to develop capacity and help raise extra funds from all the sources open to the charity.

Why is it not happening in Nairn with NICE?

It seems amazing to me that a group of people who have a proven track record of working in many different ways for the Common Good of Nairnshire are seen as being difficult and somehow to be stopped. It will come as no great surprise that I do not think Nairnshire has had its Fair Share of resources in the boom times. I therefore will be arguing along with all of Nairnshire that we should not pay an equal share of the cuts.

To the Future then and how we make NICE work.

We will work in partnership with all agencies. The work of the combined Community Councils is helping to deliver a new Nairnshire Plan. The by-pass is looking realistic at last. We will work with the HC on town centre regeneration. We are in serious discussions with other partners to help this happen. The right to buy again is important as the various schemes progress.

The harbour/river/flooding/sewage needs some serious thinking and expenditure but it has to be done. We will do all we can to make it work.

Sandown and the wetlands are again linked to the best use of the Common good and we are again working in partnership to help deliver these proposals.

We have always argued that Nairnshire needs to develop and improve to compete with all the other tourist, retirement and places to live and work competition it faces.

We are helping the Nairn People and the Integrated Health and Social care services to develop the Nairnshire capacity it deserves, with a Fair share budget

This is a time of great opportunity for Nairnshire. In thanking my fellow directors for all their hard work I would also like to thank the CC Chairs and members for their input.

We need a frank discussion with our members tonight about the way forward. I look to the 2015 report for a much cheerier future.